



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **Puerto Rican man arrested for possession of child pornography**

*-Arrest part of ICE's national Operation Predator-*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—A 53-year-old predator was arrested here this morning by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents following an indictment handed down Wednesday charging him with possession of child pornography.

An ICE investigation revealed that Andres Garcia-Claudio possessed child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code (USC), Section 2252. The investigation into the case was based on a referral by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

On Oct. 19, 2005, ICE agents executed a federal search warrant at Garcia-Claudio's residence and seized computers and other electronic storage media devices. Subsequent forensic analysis of Garcia-Claudio's computer revealed more than 10 images, both still and videos, depicting child pornography.

"ICE will go after those who try to hurt our children," said Lydia St. John-Mellado, special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. "People need to understand that possessing child pornography is a serious crime that we will not tolerate."

Manufacturing, distributing and possessing child pornography carries a penalty of 30, 20 or 10 years in prison, respectively. The manufacturing of child pornography also carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years.

The indictment of Andres Garcia-Claudio contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This arrest was part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are

also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 6,500 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*